(d) if so, the extent of natural gas to be imported from these countries and also from other countries, with whom consultations are on for import of natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) There has been no import of natural gas from any country so far. Feasibility studies for importing natural gas from Oman, Qatar and Iran are in progress. The possibility of importing gas from Indonesia, Bangladesh and Myanmar is also being explored.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas Along Coast Line of Karnataka

3702. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government for exploration of oil and natural gas along Karnataka's coast line; and

(b) if so, what are the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Karnataka offshore area, sejsmic data has been acquired from 1977 onwards. Two blocks in the Karnataka offshore were taken up for exploration by Shell during Third Round of Bidding. They acquired 9898 L.K. of seismic data.

So far three Wells have been drilled one by ONGC and two by Shell without any success.

Though Blocks were offered during Fourth and Fifth Rounds also, no bid was received.

Presently, 2D Seismic data is being acquired in the deep waters including areas of the Karnataka Coast.

Contract for Blow out at Pasarlapudi—19 GAS well

3703. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a blow out contract has been given to the International Well Control (IWC) a splinter group of the Red Addair of Texas US;

(b) if so, whether the team took up the work of blow out in Parasiapudi—19 gas well in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the estimated cost of the expenditure incurred on this contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b): M/s. Emergency Resouces International Inc. (ERI) Texas, USA having senior personnel of erstwhile Red Adair Co., assisted ONGC in the fire fighting and capping of the well.

(c) The expenditure incurred by ONGC is Rs. 136.77 lakhs.

Allocation of Kerosene to Gujarat

3704. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether allocation of Kerosene under the Public Distribution System is made on the basis of actual population, as per the 1991 census;

(b) if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Governmet propose to allocate more Kerosene under PDS to Gujarat during 1995-96, on the basis of actual population as per the 1991 census;